

Friis, John

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From: Peggy Fitzsimons [mfitzsimons@iepinc.org]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 11:27 AM

To: Friis, John

Subject: Bill #6666, Section 7

March 14, 2009

Dear Committee Members:

I am parent of three wonderful children. My seven year old son was diagnose autistic children suffers from a variety of problems. He is significantly delayed causes him a huge amount of anxiety. His early years were particularly difficult

I consider my family lucky because our Birth to 3 providers gave us a lot of info track with speech and occupational therapy. During this time we focused on our son. Some of which were provided by Birth to 3, and some we paid for our Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) had the best proven results as a treatment for child and the greater the number of hours, the quicker the child made advance

At age three, our school system was responsible for Jack's education. Our out put us into serious debt. The town put Jack into a Special Needs integrated program using ABA but, I was told there wasn't any programming of that type available. consulted felt he needed a certified behavior analyst to oversee his program to

The special ed teacher did not have training in this area but she did her best to or so a week. Week after week, I heard the same things from the speech pathologist because it's hard to get him to engage." As parents, the time he was at our town husband and I. Jack was actually losing language and eye contact. As I watched understand the world around her in new ways, her brother was losing crucial time

With three young children and finances tight, we asked the town to provide an up agreeing to outplace my son in an "ABA" based school. It was difficult decide someone I didn't know and let them drive him 15 miles on the highway to get to typical peers but we knew he needed to be taught by people who understood him

Jack is now a 7 year old who is flourishing because of the ABA program he attends things every day. His programming is skillfully monitored by Board Certified Behavior Analysts. He feared that he would never be potty trained let alone do the things he can do now preventing him from expressing himself and opening himself up to learning. Now he can ride a bike and tie his shoes. Most importantly, Jack's BCBA's have taught understanding him and his behaviors to ease our burden and also be supportive

I am very much in support of bill 6666, section 7. I know that if our town had my son and the many other autistic children in our town, their lives and the lives in many ways.

Thank you,

Pamela Nocerino

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